

Profile of a U.S. Jewish academic



Geoffrey Wigoder's JEWISH SCENE

The Jewish academic is much less involved in religious activities than Protestants or Catholics.

THE 1971 edition of the "American Jewish Year Book" (published by the American Jewish Committee and the Jewish Publication Society) has now arrived in Israel and is already being carefully consulted for its up-to-date information concerning latest developments in the Jewish world.

The book, edited by J.S. Jevry, includes a survey of literature and research findings concerning "The Effects of Jewish Education"; "Inter-group Relations and Tensions in the U.S."; and a major study by Professor Sidney Goldstein of Brown University, entitled "American Jewry 1970: a demographic profile" (for which I hope to return in a future column).

Another major study is on the achievements, culture and politics of Jewish Academics in the U.S. by the Harvard sociologist Seymour Lipset and Everett Carl Ladd of the University of Connecticut. It is based on a survey of 10,000 academics, including about 3,000 Jews.

University quotas

For many years, Jews were held back from educational and job opportunities within the American university system. Until the end of World War II, important private and public universities had quotas limiting the number of Jewish undergraduates. In the 1920s and 1930s, at that time large numbers of children of immigrants were seeking college entrance and the pressure was put on Jews to be admitted to very limited quotas. It was only after World War II, when anti-Semitism was being fought by the board of selection of students in chemistry (in a combined Harvard).

Of course, there has been a startling change over the past 20 years. On both student and faculty sides, schools notorious for their restrictive policies suddenly opened their doors. Now Jews form a heavy proportion of the academic world. At a similar level, 9 per cent of faculty are Jewish; of the newest faculty (those admitted under 25), 13 per cent are Jewish. (The increase has been even more marked at the major centres of Stock Exchange in Ivy League Colleges and

be "We Try Harder." They publish more books and articles than the gentle academics. They spend more time on professional reading and are more interested in research. These academic achievements are reflected in rank and financial status. Thus, although of a slightly younger average age than the non-Jews, a larger percentage of the Jews are full professors.

The sociological background is limited to a set of values leading Jews to emphasize hard work and learning, to be careful, and to postpone present pleasures for future security. There is a greater commitment to intellectual activities. Jews for example, form a disproportionately large part of the market for art and literature. On the other hand, more than half the Jewish professors almost never attend an athletic event (compared with less than a third of the non-Jews). But the Jews are more likely to go to concerts, plays and "Art" films. A larger percentage of Jewish faculty members had fathers who did not finish high school than non-Jewish faculty. Of the Jews 45 per cent had fathers who were in business, contrasted with only 18 per cent of the others.

The Jewish academics prove to be much less involved in religious activities than the Protestants, and these in turn are less active than the Catholics. To an increasing degree, Jewish identification has become ethnic-culture, rather than religious. Twenty-six per cent of those of Jewish background declared they had no religion, compared with 20 per cent of those of Christian background. However, the expected growth of such feeling among the younger academics has not materialized and the proportion of younger scholars who feel hostile to or disinterested in religion is no greater than among their elders.

Politics

Jews generally have been disposed to back liberal, Democratic and left-wing third-party candidates, and this is reflected on the campus. Family political-intellectual tradition affects the behaviour of the children. Among those with children of college age, 58 per cent of the Jews reported that their children had been active in civil rights, anti-Vietnam or other demonstrations — as contrasted with only 22 per cent of the children of gentile professors. In general, the family influence is shown by the statistic that 83 per cent of the children of left-wing academics had been active in demonstrations as against only 4 per cent of the children of strongly conservative professors — and the Jewish academics were usually among the former. In 1968, Jewish academics disproportionately supported Eugene McCarthy and only a small proportion voted for Nixon. In 1964 only 2 per cent of the Jewish academics voted for Goldwater as against 24 per cent of the Protestants. As a group, the Jews were much more liberal on such issues as student activism, the attitude to blacks and the legalization of marijuana. The proportion of Jews favouring immediate withdrawal from Vietnam is twice that of non-Jews. The gap is smallest when it comes to academic matters — Jews are only slightly more willing than others to waive academic standards in appointing members of minority groups to the faculty or in offering courses of black studies. And for all their sympathy for campus activism, they are not especially disposed to give students a major voice in campus decisions.

With all their differences from the non-Jews, it is the least Jewish Jews who differ the most. As in the case of other religions, the greater the commitment to religious practice, the more the tendency to political conservatism.

Bnei Brak gives in; to have public library

BNEI BRAK. — This town is to lose one of its unique distinctions: this week, the City Council, by an overwhelming majority, voted to open a public library. For nearly 50 years, the city fathers of this orthodox town have refused to open such a "secular" institution here, making Bnei Brak the only town in the country without a public library. The new library will be housed in what used to be the fire station, on Rehov Ezerai.

The proposal to set up the library was opposed by Agudat Yisrael. However, Poalei Agudat Yisrael, which is a coalition partner, merely abstained in the vote in the Council. City Councilmen from the N.R.P., Gehal and the Labour Alignment, all coalition partners, cast the revolutionary "aye" vote.

Ex-Mayor Shimon Shiroka, of Agudat Yisrael, explained his opposition to the library by saying: "If Bnei Brak managed to survive for 48 years without a public library, there is no need to alter the situation now." Other opponents voiced fears that pornographic literature would be made available to the town's residents in the library.

In the Knesset on Tuesday the House voted to committee, on the first reading, a draft bill empowering the Education Minister to order municipalities to open public libraries; and a five-member private bill granting concessions on articles for law graduates.

Foreign Ministry appointments

Dr. Yoel Barzani has been appointed Director of the Latin American Division of the Foreign Ministry, it has been announced. He is succeeded in his previous post of Director of the Cultural and Scientific Relations Division by Mr. Abba Geffen, until now Consul-General in Toronto.

Mr. Nissim Yaish has been appointed Director of the Europe "A" Division, which includes most of West Europe. He was previously Deputy Director of the Division.



All new immigrants arriving at Lod Airport on Monday, Tu Bi'Shvat, were presented with a parcel containing Israeli fruits, a book of psalms and a message of greetings in Hebrew and Russian from the Histadrut executive. Here Rabbi Menachem Elscoban, the rabbi of the Histadrut, gives the parcel to a young immigrant from Russia.

The Tu Bi'Shvat seder is revived

By DAVID LANDAU, Jerusalem Post Reporter

THE Tu Bi'Shvat seder was a short-lived custom: it originated with the Saintry Ari (Rabbi Isaac Luria, the Safed mystic), and died out with his disciples. On Monday night in Jerusalem it was revived again — as one of the Year of the Art events, marking the quatercentenary of the Ari's death.

Presided over by Rabbi Dr. Shmuel Z. Kahane, Curator of Mount Zion, the seder at the Tirat Bat-Sheva Hotel was at once interesting and entertaining. The only pity was that there were only a few scores of tourists here to enjoy it. (Shvat is a tourist off-season, and the organizers were taking an obvious risk.)

As in the Passover seder, so in the cabalistic Tu Bi'Shvat seder the focal points were the arborescent — the four cups of wine. In the days of the Ari the first cup served as a sort of kiddush and the other three cups introduced the eating of three sets of

ten fruits. The cabalists divided fruits — and by analogy people — into three types: those with edible exteriors and inedible cores; those with edible interiors and inedible peels; and those edible throughout. Each cup of wine — and type of fruit — was accompanied in the Ari's seder with mystic discussions and dissertations on sections of the Zohar (the basic textbook of the Cabala).

A mere dozen fruits had to suffice in the modern-day revival; and the speakers dispensed with mystic dissertations. But each cup was followed by short, simple, yet fascinating lectures on the Safed cabalists and the part trees and natural growth and development played in their teachings. The speakers were Dr. Kahane, Rabbi Dr. Israel Weinstein and Rabbi Dr. Gruber, both noted experts on the Cabala, and Rabbi Dr. Rosenbaum, former Chief Rabbi of Mexico. Leading the participants in rousing hassidic niggunim were Ben Yosef, and Avraham Avraham with his guitar.

CALL AT JERUSALEM SYMPOSIUM 'Don't neglect Soviet Jews who stay'

WORLD Jewry should not neglect those Jews in Russia who are not emigrating to Israel at the moment, and it should fight for their national and cultural rights in the U.S.S.R., Professor Chono Shmerook, head of the Hebrew University Yiddish department, said on Sunday.

He was speaking at the opening session of the Symposium on Jewish Culture in the U.S.S.R. held at the Van Leer Institute in Jerusalem. The two-day symposium was organized by the cultural department of the World Jewish Congress, with researchers, writers and poets from Russia and Israel participating. President Shazar attended the opening session.

Prof. Shmerook said that no Jew thinks of abandoning Western Jewry who do not immigrate to Israel, although there are no restrictions upon them. Thus, there is no justification for discriminating against Jews who stay in the U.S.S.R.

Jewish culture in the Soviet Union has no future, said Prof. Michael Zand of the Hebrew University who immigrated from Russia eight months ago. Most of this culture has been destroyed, especially that of the Bucharian and Karaitic communities.

The only form of Jewish culture to appear in print is that approved by the authorities in the monthly "Sovietish Heimland." However, this publication conceals the fact that there is no Jewish culture left in Russia, while satisfying the needs of Soviet policy in showing the world that the culture still exists.

On Monday in a lecture attended by Prime Minister Golda Meir, a film producer, Moshe Kalik, spoke on the role of Soviet Jewry in Russian theatre and cinema. The authorities are deliberately suppressing all such activity by Jews, he said.

Mr. Vadim Maniker analysed the rise of Jewish writings in underground and illegal publications in the Soviet Union. Mr. Ya'acov Shvili examined the development of Jewish Georgian culture.

Heine and Schumann

"The Art of Song" in Word and Music"; Chila Grossmeyer, soprano; Ari Zemanek, piano; Dan Kanner, readings (Beit Ha'am, Jerusalem, January 24). "Heinrich Heine" — 11 Klavier set to music by Robert Schumann; Franz Liszt (from Kreisleriana, Fantasiestücke, Arabeske, Klünderhans); readings from "Lyrisches Intermezzo," Franzosen Sabbath, "Aut Fugate des Océanes," "Salazar."



THE combination of Heinrich Heine and Robert Schumann produced German romanticism at its most intimate and lovable, which required a corresponding atmosphere. The Beit Ha'am hall, with all its noises and movements, does not allow a proper mood to be created, and much of the programme was lost.

A lengthy documentary (in German) on Heine's life preceded the programme. Robert Schumann's name was not mentioned at all in the programme, although all the music was by him — was this a compliment to the audience, whose knowledge of the fact was taken for granted?

Chila Grossmeyer sang with clear, well-placed voice and appropriate characterization of the music without over-sentimentalizing or losing the meaning of Heine's words. Her contribution was so enjoyable that

one wished to hear more of her that evening. Why did she not sing the whole "Dichterliebe," for example?

Ari Zemanek accompanied with poetic feeling and soft touch, giving full emphasis to the melodic lines of his piano part which, in Schumann, is always more than simple accompaniment to the voice. His contributions as soloist, some of them of considerable length, would have been suitable in a private gathering or a small concert room, but did not fulfill their intended function here, for their reflective mood could not reach the audience.

Dan Kanner spoke his readings with a beautifully sonorous low voice, and his selections were well-chosen and intelligently presented.

YOHANAN BOHEM



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Business Offers

BRITISH Chartered Engineer shortly returning to England after completing contract... Business offers section containing various professional and commercial advertisements.

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IN A NEW building, Rehov Agorah... Dwellings section listing various real estate listings and rental opportunities.

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EXPERIENCED piano teacher, centrally located... Lessons section for various subjects.

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HERZLIYA PLOT, for sale, nice plot... Plots section for real estate.

Purchase Sale

SOUTH AMERICAN FAMILY returning home... Purchase and sale section.

Situations Vacant

ENGLISH typist, Anglo Saxon preference... Situations vacant section.

Situations Wanted

EXPERIENCED secretary, experienced... Situations wanted section.

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"HAMILTON" basic cleaning, floor shining... Services section.

Vehicles

PASSPORT SALE Feb. 128 April 1970... Vehicles section.

Partnership

FOR EXCELLENT BUSINESS... Partnership section.

Wanted

FOR SALE: A few minutes from sea... Wanted section.

YESTERDAY'S PRESS

BRANDT VISIT

Devar (Histadrut) discussing the proposal to invite West German Chancellor Willy Brandt to Israel...

Lod flights

ARRIVAL: Air France 197, from Tokyo, Bombay, London, Tel Aviv...

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Plant a tree in Israel with your own hand... National Religious Women's Organization... What's on section listing various events.

CINEMAS

JERUSALEM (4.30-7.00-9.00)
ARNON: The Prize; GERT: Mourning... Cinemas section listing movie listings.

TEL AVIV

The Tel Aviv Museum, New EXHIBITION: The Galleries of Baghdad... Tel Aviv section listing events.

Emergency Pharmacies

JERUSALEM: Kabbani Sulaim Sulaiman... Emergency pharmacies section.

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Decision put off on site of new power station

Jerusalem Post Staff
A choice between Nahal Tanninim and Eladara as the site of a new coastal power station has been postponed for up to three months.

Gvati in the Knesset: Must not exaggerate gravity of blackouts

Jerusalem Post Knesset Staff
The delay was getting worse, month by month, he warned. The decision to build an atomic power station was not simple either, and he did not believe one could be built for many years.

NO SABBATH POLICY
(He raised matters around the chamber with his comment to Poelis Aguda Rabbi Avraham Werdiger, that the Electric Corporation had no policy of causing blackouts on Friday nights.)



CONFRONTATION.—Hebrew University students question police officers at a Hyde Park type forum at Wise Auditorium yesterday.

Allon opposes religious coercion

Jerusalem Post Knesset Reporter
Education and Culture Minister Yigal Allon last night criticized attempts by religious factions to impose their views on the entire country.

Erhard replaced on Migdal-Binyan board

The Board of Directors of Migdal-Binyan has appointed Dr. E. Lehmann, chairman of the board of Bank Leumi, as its chairman.

Tractor hits parked plane

LOD AIRPORT.—A cargo plane parked on a runway was severely damaged yesterday morning when a tractor drove into it.

Women's coup in El Al staff c'ttee

LOD AIRPORT.—The new works committee of El Al non-technical employees, which was elected yesterday, has a majority of women.

Hillel opens 'Baghdad Gallows' art exhibit

Jerusalem Post Reporter
The Gallows of Baghdad, an unusual art exhibition, was opened yesterday at the Tel Aviv Museum by Police Minister Shlomo Hillel.

Sapir: we face crises of danger, opportunity

Jerusalem Post Reporter
"I have just come from a session in the Prime Minister's office, where 25 Israeli businessmen agreed to help raise \$100m. for the absorption of immigrants."

Local heads chime in against Netanyahu mayor

FETAH TEKVA.—In an open letter to the press, several heads of local government yesterday took strong issue with Netanyahu's Mayor Oved Ben-Am in the dispute between him and the District Planning Commission.

Navon replies to libel suit on President's House

TEL AVIV.—Knesset Deputy Speaker Yitzhak Navon submitted his defence brief yesterday in the \$1,000,000 libel suit instituted against him by architect Abba Shushan.

3,000 Soviets emigrated to Israel in Jan.

VIENNA (Reuters).—The exodus of Jews from the Soviet Union continued unabated in January, and an estimated 50,000 were in the process of trying to complete their Soviet emigration formalities.

Parents arrive to search for missing Jennifer

Policeman Gerald Wiseman arrived from England last night with his wife, Penny, in order to make a last desperate effort to locate their daughter, Jennifer, missing since last October.

January death toll was 55

TEL AVIV.—Fifty-five persons lost their lives, and about 300 suffered severe injuries, in road accidents during January, the National Council for the Prevention of Road Accidents reported yesterday.

THE WEATHER

Table with columns for location, weather conditions, and temperature forecasts for various cities in Israel.

ARRIVALS

Mr. Abraham Fomenko, academic secretary of Bar-Ilan University from the U.S., Canada and Europe, on University business.

DEPARTURES

Moche Givon, managing director of Pas Oil Company, for London, on business (by BSA).

Two killed on roads

Two persons were killed and three severely injured in traffic accidents yesterday. Early yesterday morning a car swerved off the Petah Tikva-Lydda road and crashed into a tree.

In Haifa three women in their seventies were seriously injured last night as they were crossing Rehov Moriah on Mount Carmel, on pedestrian crossing.

On Monday, a resident of Tira, Yosef Mansour, 40, was killed near Beit Lid, when his car crashed head-on into an oncoming lorry.

A CIVIL DEFENCE drill will be held in the Kfar Saba area today.

It will include simulated bombings and fires. Magen David Adom, the Fire Brigade and the police will participate.

Unterman won't accept 'honorary' solution to Chief Rabbinate crisis

By ASHEE WALLFISH and DAVID LANDAU
Chief Rabbi Unterman will not agree to become 'honorary president of the Chief Rabbinate Council' if the position is to be purely one of honour, bereft of all responsibility.

HOPES FOR RESOLUTION

Top-level sources in the N.R.P. told The Post that Chief Rabbi Unterman had undertaken, some time ago, not to stand for election, if he were assured the post of honorary president.

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